

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W

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R 141237Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3645

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ARREST OF GALLA INSURGENT LEADERS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 2803; (B) ADDIS 2623; (C) ADDIS 2584

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA MARCH 13 AND 14 PROMINENTLY FEATURE ARREST OF BG TADESSE BIRU AND LT. COL. HAILU REGASSA WITH CLUTCH OF THEIR "ACCOMPLICES." MEN, TAKEN BY SECURITY FORCES "IN COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC", ARE ACCUSED OF OPPOSING "ETHIOPIAN POPULAR MOVEMENT" AND ATTEMPTING TO INCITE REBELLION. ACCORDING MEDIA, THEY ARE TO BE CHARGED BEFORE SPECIAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL TODAY (MARCH 14). PRISONERS (PICTURES DISPLAYED ON TV AND IN PRESS.

2. MEDIA REPORT THAT REBELS WERE TAKEN IN VILLAGE OF CURO MAKO IN META ROBI DISTRICT, MENEGESHA, SHOA PROVINCE, "WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN HIDING FOR SOME TIME." ACCORDING GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, BG TADESSE AND LT. COL. HAILU ATTEMPTED INCITE REBELLION ON  
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"TRIBAL BASIS" TO COVER THEIR TRUE MOTIVES, WHICH SAID BE

OPPOSITION TO LAND REFORM. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF META ROBI DISTRICT REPORTEDLY WAS KILLED DURING SHOOTOUT PRECEDING ARREST THESE MEN.

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT TADESSE BIRU IS STORIED GALLA LEADER LONG KEPT BY EX-EMPEROR IN CUSTODY/HOUSE ARREST FOR HIS REBELLIOUS PAST. LT. COL. HAILU IS HIGHLY EDUCATED SOLDIER WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL NOW TRYING FORMER OFFICIALS. PRESS EXPLAINS HIS DISSIDENCE BY SAYING HE WAS LARGE LANDOWNER. PRESS ALSO CHARGES HAILU WITH THEFT OF ETH\$80,000 RAISED FOR DROUGHT RELIEF, TOGETHER WITH MAJ. ABEBE GEBRE MARIAM, WHO REMAINS AT LARGE. CAPTURE OF GEN. TADESSE IS SHARP SETBACK TO GALLA DISSIDENTS, AS OTHER POTENTIAL GALLA LEADERS OF HIS STATURE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. CONVERSELY, IT IS QUITE A FEATHER IN EPMG'S CAP. WE NOTE THAT EPMG CONFIDENT ENOUGH IN APPEAL ITS LAND REFORM AMONG GALLAS TO ATTEMPT USE BG TADESSE BIRU'S PUTATIVE OPPOSITION TO IT AGAINST HIM.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, ET, (BIRU, TADESSE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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